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News Release

BASF Ireland Summer School for Chemistry Teachers

BASF, one of the world's leading chemical companies, recognizes the crucial importance of having highly trained chemistry teachers in our schools. For the past eight years the company, which has a manufacturing site in Cork, has organized Summer Schools for chemistry teachers in Ireland.

The eight annual BASF Summer School for Chemistry Teachers is being held on 25-26th June 2019 in the Eureka Centre at University College Cork (UCC). This summer school involves a partnership between BASF Ireland the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST), UCC and the Cork branch of the Irish Science Teachers' Association.

The Summer School began in 2012 as a result of chemistry teachers asking for assistance in updating their knowledge and skills to teach chemistry, particularly the newer aspects of the chemistry syllabus in Ireland. As BASF has an excellent track record in promoting chemical education, Dr Declan Kennedy, Senior Lecturer in Science Education at UCC, contacted the BASF plant in Little Island near Cork with a request for sponsorship.

Initially, the Summer School was planned as a one-day event, but it has always run over two days because so many teachers apply for places each year. Due to the heavy emphasis on practical work, attendance is limited to 35 teachers each day. In addition to the 70 teachers attending this year there was also a waiting list of 20 teachers on each day.

Speaking at the launch of the Summer School, Bart Van de Voorde, Site Manager of BASF Ireland, said he hoped the two-day event would enhance the chemistry teachers' knowledge and understanding of key areas of the Leaving Certificate Chemistry syllabus, as well as updating their laboratory practical skills and providing them with good teaching ideas.

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The summer school covers topics such as free online resources that have been developed by teachers for their own students. In addition, teachers will study the historical development of chemistry and highlight the key famous chemists and their contributions to concepts that are taught at Leaving Certificate Chemistry level.

The teachers will study some top resources available for teaching Organic Chemistry and will receive all of these resources in electronic form. In the laboratory they will carry out experiments relevant to the Leaving Certificate chemistry syllabus, gain practical experience in using dry ice to illustrate some key chemistry concepts, learn about datalogging with a mobile phone and study Spectroscopy in a Suitcase.

Finally, the teachers will take a tour of the Inniscarra water treatment plant laboratories to learn about the modern techniques being used in the analysis of water supplied to homes and industry.

The Leaving Certificate syllabus in Ireland is studied by students in the 17 – 18 age group prior to entering third level education.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. The approximately 122,000 employees in the BASF Group work on contributing to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of around €63 billion in 2018. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the U.S. Further information at www.basf.com.

